

know what the cancer community in the 15th District of Texas is saying.

Mr. Speaker, the cancer community is united in saying that the deep cancer care cuts, in the form of reductions in reimbursements to community-based clinics for cancer drugs, will catastrophically dismantle the cancer care delivery system we have built in this country.

If passed, the cancer community fears these cuts will turn back the clock on cancer care at least 30 years:

Community-based cancer centers nationwide, where 80 percent of patients receive treatment, will be forced to stop seeing Medicare patients or close their doors all together.

This will force cancer patients back into hospitals or large academic cancer clinics—and those institutions have said they cannot handle the influx of patients.

Patients in rural America—like in parts of my South Texas District—will be severely burdened as they will have to travel great distances to receive care.

Family members and friends who would have to accompany a loved one on those long trips, would face the economic burden of missing work as well as the psychological hurdle of helping someone through treatment, if this bill passes in its current form.

These cancer cuts will not only affect today's treatments, but tomorrow's medical cures. That's because more than 60 percent of clinical trials of promising cancer treatments occur in the community-based setting. Without community treatment centers to provide care, patient access to clinical trials—and the hope they represent—would be significantly curtailed.

These cuts appeared at a critical time in the war against cancer. Just last month the National Cancer Institute reported that mortality rates from the four most common types of cancer—breast, colorectal, lung and prostate—appear to have declined. That marks eight years in a row that cancer deaths have declined. But even with that good news, we still face many challenges in the War on Cancer.

According to the American Cancer Society, 1-in-2 men and 1-in-3 women will be diagnosed with cancer at some time in their lives.

And an estimated 60 percent of new cancer cases are predicted in people aged 65 years and older.

Prescription drug coverage is a noble cause, and one which I hope we can provide to seniors. But we cannot provide seniors drug coverage on the backs of cancer patients—many of whom are fighting for their lives.

Seniors deserve a Medicare prescription drug bill, not a \$16 billion cancer care cut.

#### TRIBUTE TO MOE BILLER

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2003*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a friend, Moe Biller, former president of the American Postal Workers Union, who passed away last Friday.

Morris "Moe" Biller headed APWU for more than twenty years, fighting for the workers he represented. From his beginnings as a part-

time clerk to eventually becoming president of the APWU, Moe committed himself to helping those who were underrepresented.

Born November 15, 1915, Moe attended high school and college in New York City. In 1937, he began his postal career on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Making less than one dollar per hour with no vacation benefits or sick pay, Moe was committed to his job and to improving conditions for his fellow employees.

He held several positions including chairman of the Membership Committee, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Executive Vice-President before being elected as president of the Manhattan-Bronx Postal Workers Union in 1959. In 1971, Moe served on the committee that oversaw the merger of the five postal unions that now comprise the APWU. An early supporter of civil rights, Moe championed the cause of greater equality for women in the workplace. He was also a longtime member of the Coalition of Labor Union Women and the NAACP.

Moe's other achievements include serving on the New York City Central Labor Council, the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO, the labor federation's Public Employee Department, and the Executive Committee of the Postal, Telegraph and Telephone International. He also served on the boards of several charitable and civic organizations, including the Muscular Dystrophy Association, United Way International, the National Advisory Council to the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, and the Federal Executive Committee of the Combined Federal Campaign.

Among his many accolades were the 1979 Community Service Award from the New York City Central Labor Council, the 1982 Spirit of Life Award from the City of Hope National Medical Center, the 1999 Ellis Island Medal of Honor, and the 1999 Lower East Side Tenement Museum Urban Pioneer Award.

Moe's spirit will always be strong in those who knew him, and in those whose lives he touched but who never had the opportunity to meet him. Through Moe's life, we all benefit from his tireless efforts to help those who could not help themselves.

I express my deepest condolences to his family during this difficult time.

Thank you.

#### MURDER OF UKRAINIAN HEORHIY GONGADZE STILL UNSOLVED AFTER 3 YEARS

#### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2003*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the murder of Ukrainian investigative journalist Heorhiy Gongadze remains unsolved—three years after he was murdered. On September 16, 2000, Gongadze, editor of "Ukrainska Pravda", an Internet news publication critical of high-level corruption in Ukraine, disappeared.

Ukrainian President Kuchma and a number of high-ranking officials have been implicated in his disappearance and the circumstances leading to his murder. Audio recordings exist that contain conversations between Kuchma and other senior government officials dis-

cussing the desirability of Gongadze's elimination. Over the last three years, the Ukrainian authorities' handling, or more accurately, mishandling of this case has been characterized by obfuscation and stonewalling.

Last month, a prime suspect in the case, former senior militiaman Ihor Honcharov, who allegedly headed a gang of ex-police accused of several kidnappings and murders, died in police custody under mysterious circumstances. His posthumous letters—which give a detailed account of events surrounding Gongadze's death and which name names—are now being investigated by the Prosecutor General's office. A few days ago, Prosecutor General Svyatoslav Piskun indicated that some facts in the letters have proved to be true. Reportedly, warrants have been issued for two suspects in the killing.

Mr. Speaker, a credible investigation of this case by Ukrainian authorities is long overdue. At the same time, it is important to stress that not only those who committed the actual crime, but those who ordered it—no matter who they may be—need to be brought to justice.

Unfortunately, the Gongadze case is not an isolated one. The murder, and deaths in suspicious car accidents, of journalists and opposition figures, have become commonplace. Earlier this year, Ukraine's Ombudsman Nina Karpachova asserted that journalism remains among the most dangerous professions in Ukraine, with 36 media employees having been killed over the past ten years, and many more have been beaten, including several within the last few months. This past July, Volodymyr Yefremov, a journalist critical of president Kuchma who worked with the press freedom group Institute of Mass Information (11/41), died in a suspect car accident. Just two weeks ago, Ivan Havdyda, who was head of the Ternopil region branch of the democratic opposition "Our Ukraine", was found murdered in Kyiv under questionable circumstances.

Over the last three years, the Helsinki Commission, Members of the House and Senate, Department of State, the OSCE, the Council of Europe and other international institutions repeatedly have raised the Gongadze murder case and urged the Ukrainian authorities to undertake a serious investigation into the this case. The response from Ukrainian officials has done nothing but cast doubt about the Ukrainian Government's commitment to the rule of law. Last year—just to cite one example—Ukrainian authorities blocked FBI experts from examining evidence gathered during the initial investigation, even after promising to accept U.S. technical assistance in the matter.

I also hope that the Ukrainian parliament will take determined action in encouraging governmental accountability for solving the Gongadze and other murders, and bringing those involved to justice.

The lack of a resolution of the Gongadze and other cases of those who have perished under suspicious circumstances has tarnished the credibility of the Ukrainian authorities in dealing with fundamental human rights.

Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Helsinki Commission and in the strongest possible terms, I once again urge Ukrainian authorities to take seriously the many enduring concerns regarding the circumstances that led to Heorhiy Gongadze's murder and the subsequent investigation.